

The Bethel Courier.

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WINTER 1994

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SOCIETY RAISES OVER \$8500 IN ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Over \$8500 was realized in the 1994 Bethel Historical Society Annual Fund Campaign from a near-record 300 donors. Much appreciation is extended to all of the following for making this possible:

Roger & Nancy Adams, W. Simsbury, CT, in memory of Kate Adams; Robert Albota, Ottawa, Ont.; Jim & Olive Anderson, Newry, in memory of Olga Cummiskey; Avery & Mary Angevine, Bethel; Ernest & Alberta Angevine, Bethel; Roland Annis, Jr., Bethel, in memory of Louise Annis; Mary Ann Ashcraft, Westminster, MD; Brad & Judy Barker, Bethel, in memory of John H. Currier; Clark & Neda Bartlett, Bethel; Otis J. Bartlett, Berlin, NH; Bessie Bennett, Bethel, in memory of Lester Bennett; Francine Lake Bergman, Key Colony Beach, FL; Elizabeth Blake, Bethel, in memory of Ernest Blake & Rena Abbott; Garret & Melody Bonnema, Bethel; Kenneth & Gwyneth Bohr, Bethel; Florine E. Bowden, Smithfield, RI, in memory of Herbert & Maude Bean; Dorothy F. Brinck, South Paris; Carl & Lettie Brooks, West Paris; Beatrice B. Brown, Bethel, in memory of Issac Allerton Cushman; Ida Lee Bryant, Bangor, in memory of George W. Bryant; Albert & Norma Buck, Bethel, in memory of Grace Buck; Gurdon S. Buck, Watertown, MA; Julia Brown, Bethel, in memory of Lelia McAllister; The Richard Brown Family, Bethel, in memory of Wilbur Myers; Jane Scott Butler, Duxbury, MA, in memory of Ruth Skinner Scott; Donald W. & Mary S. Calderwood, Mesa, AZ; John & Mary Beth Bayerlein, Bethel; John & Cathy Canavan, Cool, CA, in memory of Segur Family Descendants; Lee & Judith Carroll, Gorham, NH, in memory of Alton F. & Mary Carroll; Mary Champe, Rumford Center, in memory of Carlton Champe; Stephen & Lynda Chandler, Bethel; Albert S. Chapman, Harbert, MI; Daphne A. Chapman, Peabody, MA, in memory of Philip S. Chapman; Ethel Chapman, W. Bethel; Frank & Rosalind Chapman, Bethel; Donald M. Christie, Jr., Poughkeepsie, NY; Bud & Shirley Clough, Bethel, in memory of Irving Cummings (Blackie); Howard & Ginny Cole, Bethel; Evelyn Collins, New Cumberland, PA, in memory of James F. Walker; Bill & Eleanor Conary, Bethel, in memory of Howard Brown; Rupert & Eva Conroy Auburn, in memory of Sylvia Conroy; Cynthia A. Cox, Perth, UK; Roland & Barbara Crocker, Riverside, RI, in memory of Wallace & Lilius Coolidge; Stuart Crocker Architect, Bethel; Clayton & Lola Crockett, Bethel; Vivian A. Daicy, Portland, in memory of D. D. Cross; Robert & Pauline Davis, Bethel; Arlene D. Lowell, Bethel, in memory of Lloyd B. Lowell & Wilbur A. Davis; Nathaniel T. Dexter, Boston, MA, in mem-

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Camp Brockton, Riley Plantation, Maine. 1914 photograph shows earlier structure with front porch (now removed). Sitting is Annah Perham. Standing with the fishing pole is Bertha Perham (Houghton). They are the grandmother and mother of Evangeline Baylies of Bryant Pond, Maine and Stoneham, Massachusetts. Photo courtesy of Evangeline Baylies.

CAMP BROCKTON

by Dr. Thomas W. Dawson

Nestled between a small knoll on one side and a sharp drop off to swampy wetlands on the other side and rear, Camp Brockton has stood for more than 100 years in an area of Riley Plantation, Maine known as Ketchum. A logging road passes the front of the camp and a year-round running spring sits by the road at the edge of the camp property.

Originally created as a Sporting Camp by an organized group of men from Brockton, Massachusetts, this camp was used for hunting and fishing as well as vacations by shareholders or members. The building is two stories with four rooms and is of wood frame board and batten design. Fortunately, a metal roof was added many years ago which has protected the structure from weather-caused decay.

A set of Camp Brockton Club By-laws, adopted November 14, 1885, established the ground-rules for use of the Camp by members. A few of the Camp Brockton Club

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ory of Herb Shirrefs; Elizabeth Doak, Bath; Dana & Barbara Douglass, Bethel; Frances Lane Dunn, Round Pond; Elizabeth D. Duplisea, Gray; Hugh & Mariann Durgin, N. Waterford, in memory of John E. Grover; Marianne H. Durgin, Belmont, MA, in memory of Alice Smith Hamilton; Diane T. Dyer, Westbrook; Katheryn M. Eames, Cape Elizabeth, in memory of Rodney E. Eames; Shirley Bartlett Eby, Stockton, CA, in memory of James & Marguerite Bartlett; Muriel I. Ewing, York, in memory of Kilgore Family; Walter Fales, Clarkston, MI, in memory of Alice Kimball Fales; Kenneth I. & Ruth S. Farrell, Dover, NH, in memory of Eugenia S. Shorrock & Ruth S. Scott; Norm & Barbara Ferguson, Jr., Hanover, in memory of "The Silver Fox"; Marian Gates, Ann Arbor, MI, in memory of F. H. Penley; Madeleine Gibbs, Bethel, in memory of Guy E. & Jerrold A. Gibbs; Wilma Gorman, Bethel; Barbara L. Freeman, Portland; Dan & Anita Gibbs, Bethel; Arthur & Ruth Gilbert, W. Bethel; George & Bette Gilbert, Bethel, in honor of their grandchildren; Shirley & Marilyn Gilbert, W. Bethel; Robert Goodwin, Norway, in memory of Joan Stearns Kilborn; Lillian H. Grant, Gorham, in memory of Joseph Hamblen, Jr.; Susan Foster Hamill, Richmond, VA, in memory of Raymond C. Foster, Jr.; Linda Harrington, Bethel; Carolyn Wight Harrison, Portland, in memory of Elizabeth Emery Wight; Colwyn & Judith Haskell, Bethel; Walter & Carolyn Hatch, Bethel; John B. & Fumiko I. Head, Bethel, in memory of Lucetta D. Akers; Clayton & Helen Heath, Norway; Alice P. Henley, Norway; Ethel J. Herr, Bethel; Richard & Delores Hoeh, Bethel, in honor of Dick & Jane Hosterman's 50th Wedding Anniversary; Dick & Lorrie Hoeh, Bethel, in memory of Lois L. Siegel; Barbara H. Honkala, Bethel, in memory of Wm. S. & Ruth C. Hastings; Kerry Mason Hood, Seekonk, MA, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Guy Vernon Mason; Richard L. & Jane W. Hosterman, W. Bethel, in memory of deceased Society members; Christopher J. Hovey, Falmouth, in memory of Ann Taylor Hovey; Bud & Joan Howe, Bethel, in memory of Willis W. Ward; Gabrielle M. Howe, Rockville, MD, in memory of Bill Howe; Stanley R. Howe, Bethel, in memory of Horton William Emerson, Jr. and Archie Post; Harlan & Gertrude Hutchins, Bethel, in memory of Ruth Carver Ames; Lee & Virginia Hutchins, Bethel, in memory of Gardiner Smith; Robert & Allidah Iles, Rumford Center; Vernon Leland Ingraham, Marion, MA, in memory of Caverno Austin Mason; Mildred Jackson, Bethel; Charlotte Johnson, Westford, MA, in memory of Albert Johnson; Joe & Elizabeth Johnston, Peoria, AZ, in memory of Herbert P. Shirrefs; Paul A. & Helen V. Judkins, Vero Beach, FL, in memory of Doris O. Lord; Roy & Alice Keddy, Gorham; Earlon & Mary Keniston, Bethel, in memory of Evelyn M. Merrill; Alden & Mabel Kennett, Bethel; William H. Keiffer III, Bethel, in memory of Patty Noll; Roy E. Killgore, Nipomo, CA, in honor of First Selectman of Bethel John Killgore; Mr. & Mrs. John R. King, Lakeland, FL; Roberta M.

Kirmse & Penelope Beckman, Wallingford, CT, in memory of Mrs. G. Robin Noll; Herbert & Ruth Kittridge, Hanover, in memory of Laurier Kittredge; Frederick & Barbara Kneeland, Cherryfield, in memory of Roland & Libbie Kneeland; James D. Konkel, Portland; Helen L., Kraul, Portland, in memory of Karl O. Kraul; Rev. Clifford & Elizabeth Laws, Kittery Point, in honor of good memories of Bethel; Daisy M. LeClair, Bethel, in memory of Syll LeClair; Gilbert & Carol LeClair, Wauwatosa, WI, in memory of J. Syll LeClair, Ray S. & Elsie York; Susan J. LeClair, Bloomington, MN; Elizabeth S. Lord, Bethel; Frank & Bea Lowell, Newry, in memory of Iola & Dan Forbes; Rodney Lynch, Skowhegan, in honor of the town of Bethel; Sidney & Helen Mason, Springvale; Geneva J. McCoy, Bethel, in memory of Samuel L. McCoy; E. Marna McGinniss, Bethel; Marjorie Menzies & Glenyce Berry, Wellesley, MA, in memory of Ralph & Helen Berry, & H. Eldredge; Nancy H. Mercer, Bethel, in memory of James K. & Agnes H. Haines; The Merrill Company, Bethel; Henry Merrill, Jr., Greensboro, VT; Marilyn R. Mollicone, Augusta, in memory of Mr. & Mrs. J. Burton Abbott; James & Josephine Monahan, Bethel, in memory of Evelyn McMillin Merrill; Herbert H. Morton III, Andover, MA; Daniel & Mary Anne Murphy, Dracut, MA; Helen Morton, Newry; Norman R. & Jean H. Ness, Auburn; David & Jeanette Nichols, Milan, NH, in memory of Joseph & Tina Nichols; Portia Nichols, Mountain View, CA, in memory of Harriet L. McKenney; George, Danna, & Kate Nickerson, Bethel; Jack & Lucy Nordahl, Bethel; Althea G. Noyes, Falmouth; Florence E. O'Connor, Norway, in memory of William P. O'Connor; Hazel Farwell O'Donnell, Newtonville, MA, in memory of Wallace L. Farwell; Christine Otten, Bethel, in memory of George Wyckoff Bennett; Marvin & Tineke Ouwinga, Bethel, in memory of Johanna Ferwerda-Ouwinga; Earlon & Mary Paine, Bethel; Barbara Patterson, Bethel, in memory of M. Wayne & Larry Patterson; Ernest & Lillian Perkins, Bethel, in memory of James Perkins; Duplessis family/Pooh Corner Farm, Bethel; Archie & Persis Post, Bethel, in memory of Agnes Haines; Jeanette S. Potsaid, Hanover, MA, in memory of Dr. Majic S. Potsaid; Harold & Eunice Powell, Hanover, in memory of Christopher & Kevin Powell; Betty R. Prescott, Bangor, in memory of Evans & Gladys Wilson; Eleanor L. Pugliese, Bethel, in memory of Anthony L. Pugliese; Ken & Sally Ramage, Bethel; R. D. Razor, Bethel, in memory of Lucille & Bill Razor; Beatrice R. Ritter, Torrington, CT; Henry & Elizabeth Robertson, Bethel; Sandra Robinson, Amsterdam, NY, in memory of Abbie Brown; Frances Saunders, Bethel, in memory of Wallace Saunders; Margaret M. Sawyer, Waterford, in memory of Bill Sawyer; Dorothy G. Schmidt, Augusta, in memory of Florice Paul; Eric & Lucia Schwarz, Bethel; June L. Scott, South Orleans, MA, in memory of Aunt Ruth; Irene Mae Sessions, W. Bethel, in memory of Frank & Zella Smith; Skidders Deli, Bethel; Roxanne Twitchell Sly, Brooklin, in memory of Adelbert B. Twitchell, Sr.; Arthur J. Smith, Haverhill, MA; Eugenia M. Farwell Spaulding, Tewksbury, MA, in honor of the Farwell family; John R. Stanley, Durham, NC; Clyde & Bertha Stevens, Bethel, in memory of Walter & Hazel Newell; Randal & Sarah Stevens, Bethel, in memory of Friends we lost in 1994; Henry & Patricia Stewart, Boston, MA; Dr. Robert B. & Joanne Peabody Stewart, Portland, in memory of Walter Richardson Peabody; Marion Cole Stock, Ramona, CA, in memory of Edmund Chase Cole; Dexter & Janet Stowell, Bethel; Jonathan & Rowena Stowell, Shirley, MA; Michael S. Stowell, Lovettsville, VA, in

EDITOR'S CORNER

Readers of this issue of the *Courier* will find a flyer providing ordering information for the forthcoming book relating to the history of the Richardson Lakes area of Maine. A special pre-publication price is being offered; readers wishing to ensure that they reserve a copy or copies are urged to order promptly.

SRH



President Charles Raymond poses with Elizabeth Mason Carter and the early 19th century grandfather's clock that once belonged to Mrs. Carter's great-grandfather, Ayers Mason.

honor of James Keith Bartlett & Joshua Paul Head; Jane Sullivan, Portland; Steve & Margaret Wight, Bethel; Robert & Violet Swain, East Andover, in memory of Lucie Morse Swain; Martha E. Sweatt, Bethel, in memory of Terry Gordon; Lea-Anne Thayer, Richmond, VA, in memory of Richard J. Brown; Charles M. Thing, Topsfield, MA; Muriel B. Thompson, W. Springfield, MA, in memory of Evelyn Brinck Cockburn; Clara H. Thurston, Fryeburg; Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Bethel, in memory of Dr. & Mrs. R. R. Tibbetts; Don & Peggy Tobin, Brandera TX, in memory of Florence Twitchell Tobin; Dr. John & Margaret Trinward, N. Waterford, in memory of Hazel Trinward; Sarah S. Tucker, Boston, MA, in memory of Caroline McMillan; Edmond & Sudie Vachon, Bethel; Mary E. Valentine, Bethel; Jerry & Shireen Vincent, Bethel; Margaret S. Ward, King of Prussia, PA, in memory of William Lewis Farwell Family; Adelia A. Waterhouse, Bethel; Ruth H. Watson, Gouldsboro; Ann B. Webber, Washington, DC; Robert E. Wendig, Huntingdon Valley, PA, in honor of Sunday River Inn; Earland & Margaret Wentzell, W. Baldwin, in memory of Stan Wentzell; Les Whall, Salt Lake City, UT, in memory of Marzee York Whall; Mary E. Wheeler, Bethel; Maynard H. White, Haverhill, MA, in memory of Bill Lowe & his wife Levina; Maxwell & Elizabeth Whiteman, Elkins Park, PA; Owen & Sue Wight, Newry; Ruth W. Wight, Bethel; Willard & Sylvia Wight, Newry; Jacqueline Wilkins, Longwood, FL, in memory of Grace Merrill & Lucia Wilson; Dennis & Rita Wilson, Bethel; Dorothy C. Wilson, Orono; Eleanor L. Wilson, Bryant Pond; Elizabeth Woronsoff, Bethel, in memory of Roman Woronzoff; Edna M. York, Bethel, in memory of Robert S. York; Raymond & Dee York, Camarillo, CA, in memory of Stella M. Grover, York; Dr. Robert & Jeanette York, Orrs Island, in honor of Stan Howe; Archie & Jane Young, Bethel, in memory of Louise Annis.

THANK YOU

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This issue contains a list of the contributors to the 1994 Annual Fund Campaign. Special thanks go to all those who made donations and to the Annual Fund Campaign Committee for their efforts in making this year's drive such a success.

Also included in this issue is a flyer describing the Society's next publication project, Herbert P. Shirrefs' *The Richardson Lakes: Jewels in the Rangeley Chain*. I hope you will consider ordering a copy of what promises to be an intriguing book. Society Curator of Collections Randall H. Bennett and the Publications Committee are to be commended for all their hard work in preparing this volume for publication.

Charles F. Raymond

SOCIETY RECEIVES EARLY 19TH CENTURY GRANDFATHER'S CLOCK

An early 19th century grandfather's clock, believed to have once been the property of Ayers Mason, brother of Dr. Moses Mason, has been acquired by the Society through a bequest from the late Muriel Park Mason. The announcement of the bequest was made at the Society's December monthly meeting by president Charles Raymond. Ayers Mason was the grandfather of Harry E. Mason, husband of Muriel Park Mason.

The works of the clock were made in England by Osborne and Wilson, which manufactured considerable quantities of clock parts for American clockmakers between 1770 and 1825. A note on the case indicates that the cords for the weights were last installed by Bethel jeweler Edward P. Lyon in 1916.

Funds from the Society's Austin F. Twitchell Memorial Fund have been used to repair and recondition the clock so that visitors during the 1995 season will be able to see this gift and enjoy it as part of the museum experience.

"This is a major gift to the Dr. Moses Mason House Museum and one that will be treasured by members and visitors for years to come," observed president Raymond in announcing the gift. "We are certainly grateful for Mrs. Mason's generosity in making this acquisition possible and for her foresight in placing a major Mason family heirloom in our Mason house," he added.

IN MEMORIAM

Died, Rumford, Maine, 29 December 1994, Archibald Post, life member since 1992.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Mary Brent, Springfield, MO

Arthur P. Gottwald, Alexandria, VA

Clifton and Grace Jackson, Wallingford, CT

U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe, Washington, DC and Auburn, ME

SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 6% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile	\$3.50
Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes)	\$2 ea.
Moses Mason House	Bethel Railroad Station
Summer House	Bethel Covered Bridge

Booklets

"The Family Farm"	75¢
"Made in Bethel"	75¢
"Dr. Moses Mason and His House"	\$1
"Molly Ockett"	\$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill	\$2
1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel)	\$2
1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill	\$1
1858 Atlas of Oxford County	\$7.50

Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo)	sm. \$7.50	lg. \$11.50
Placemats, 4 Season (set of four)	\$7.50	

Books

Carrie Wight, A HISTORY OF NEWRY	\$5
Hutchinson, THE RUMFORD FALLS & RANGELEY LAKES RAILROAD	\$20
BETHEL, MAINE CEMETERIES	\$9.50
Russell, INDIAN NEW ENGLAND BEFORE THE MAYFLOWER	\$15.95
N.F. Little, AMERICAN DECORATIVE WALL PAINTING 1700-1850	\$9.95
R. Crosby, FROM AN OLD LEATHER TRUNK	\$5
W.B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE	\$19.95
THE WHITE MOUNTAINS: PLACE & PERCEPTIONS	\$9.95
Bennett, THE WHITE MOUNTAINS	\$14.99
D.B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS	\$4
Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY	\$7.50
MAINE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC	\$29.95
Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW ENGLAND	Paper \$22.95. Cloth \$35
Bennett, BETHEL, MAINE: AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY	\$39.95
M.F. King, ANNALS OF OXFORD	\$48
R. Crosby, I WAS A SUMMER BOARDER	\$5
Howe, MAINE GRANGE HISTORY	\$19.95
Paula Wight, NEWRY PROFILES	\$5
Eva Bean, EAST BETHEL ROAD	\$50
R.H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE	\$18
William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL, 1768-1890	\$45
F.W. Kilbourne, CHRONICLES OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS	\$20
N.T. True, HISTORY OF BETHEL	\$21

T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL)	\$7
Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14)	\$6
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL)	\$7
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14)	\$6

Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason, Moses Mason House	10¢ ea.
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Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail. If you have questions, please call toll free: 1-800-824-2910.

(Camp Brockton, continued from page 1)

By-laws are listed below:

1. Seven members or shares shall contribute a quorum. (Property of the Club shall be divided into thirteen shares.)
2. Members of the Club may invite friends to visit the Camp with them, but not to the inconvenience, exclusion, or discomfort of its members.
3. Members of the Club may invite their wives and lady friends to visit camp on any day except camp days (Saturdays and Sundays).
4. No guns shall remain loaded while in Camp.
5. Members shall register in a book kept for that purpose, the number of fish caught and game killed.

Ketchum was a small farming community before the turn of the century. An excellent portrayal of this area is revealed in a book by Martha Fifield Wilkins (edited by Randy L. Bennett) entitled *Sunday River Sketches*. A line drawing of Camp Brockton can be found on page 114 of this publication.

The current owners of this historic camp, Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Dawson, are in the process of restoring the structure to its original state. The Dawsons are also members of the Bethel Historical Society.

INFORMATION NEEDED

The history of Camp Brockton is currently being researched for a book or pamphlet about this unique sporting camp. Anyone with information should call or write: Dr. Thomas Dawson, 48 Holman Street, Laconia, NH 03246 or call (603) 524-5935.

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE

January 5 Annual "So You Think You Know Bethel"

February 2 Annual Historical Film Night

March 2 Oral History Night: Logging and Loggers

April 6 Eva Bean's Centenary

May 4 Richard Deans, "150th Anniversary of the Oxford County Fair"

June 1 Bethel News Centenary Observance

July 6 Annual Picnic: Tour of Greenwood Sites

August 3 Gehring Clinic Centenary

September 7 30th Annual Meeting: Pot Luck Supper.

Richard Judd, Associate Professor of History, University of Maine "Railroads and Maine Tourism"

October 5 Annual "What's It" Night

November 2 Shireen Vincent, "The World of Maud Pratt Farwell from her Diaries"

December 7 Annual "Christmas with the Masons"

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are held in the Society's Broad Street headquarters, the Dr. Moses Mason House and are open to anyone interested in attending. Except for the Annual Meeting (6:30 P.M. Pot Luck Supper) and the Annual Picnic (5:30 P.M.) all meetings begin promptly at 7:30 P.M.



Edith Kimball Howe in 1967

MEMBER PROFILE

A CENTENARY PORTRAIT: EDITH K. HOWE

Edith Berry Kimball was born 23 July 1894 in the house built by her great grandfather at Middle Intervale in Bethel, Maine, the eldest child of Benjamin Webber and Anna Berry Kimball. Her father continued to own the homestead where five generations of Kimballs had lived until 1905 when he sold the premises to Frank Russell. That same year, he also discharged the debt incurred by his father Israel Grenville Kimball in the loss of the Hemlock Island Bridge investment in 1841. Presumably he sold the family homestead to be relieved of that burden of debt.

Benjamin Kimball moved his family just down the road where they rented the present Richard Carter house. They did not remain here long since in November 1906 he moved the family to Bellows Falls, Vermont, where work was awaiting him with the Vermont Machine Company.

By this time Edith had gained a sister Alice (b. 1897), and two brothers Lawrence, (b. 1901) and Philip (b. 1904). Edith had begun school at Middle Intervale. At Bellows Falls, she and her sister were placed in the seventh grade.

During this period, she attended school, assumed many of the household duties and learned to cook and sew. She found time to draw and use watercolors; she even took a correspondence course to improve her drawing and painting.

The family did not stay long in Bellows Falls. What seemed a step up did not materialize; in June 1908, they returned to Bethel, finding quarters in the building which is today part of the Sudbury Inn on Main Street. It was here that Philip died at the age of four after eating cucumbers. His family always believed cucumbers contributed to his death; Edith maintained a lifelong hatred of this vegetable and her children were never permitted to eat them. Benjamin was working for the Webb Canning Company of Readfield when his son died.

After three years on Main Street, the family moved to the large house which once stood at the corner of Mechanic and Railroad streets (commonly known as "The Beehive"). By 1913, they were living in the house now used by Gould Academy for the Owen Art Gallery. It was not long before they moved to the house now owned by Thomas Kennagh on Intervale Road, where they lived until the 1920s. It was here that Anna died in her sleep in 1924.

During the summer of 1909, Edith worked for the Joseph Holt family on Holt Hill in East Bethel. That fall she started her education at Gould's Academy (the possessive was not dropped until 1924). She and her sister were on the varsity basketball team, but most of the time she served as a substitute for the out-of-town games.

The following summer (1910) she worked at the post card factory (Whitten and Denison) at West Bethel. She played basketball again during her sophomore year. She also worked in the dormitory, washing dishes and waiting on tables. For this work, she received a very small stipend plus board and room.

After her junior year, she worked at Old Orchard Beach's Ocean House. Here she waited tables and did mending. In the fall of 1912, she began her senior year. She completed her courses with good grades and graduated in June 1913 in ceremonies held in Odeon Hall.

Following her graduation, she spent the summer again at Ocean House. She returned to Bethel to care for her ailing mother. When her mother's health improved, Edith took a job teaching school in Richardson Hollow in the town of Greenwood. There were only seven students; she boarded with the Ralph Chapman family. For teaching, she was paid five dollars a week; her board and room cost \$3.50 weekly. She spent the fall term here before moving to the Tubbs District which was nearer West Paris. Here she had seventeen pupils and seven grades. She got to school by horse and wagon until the mud dried up and then was able to ride her bicycle, which had been acquired in Bellows Falls.

She had known John Howe at Gould Academy. He graduated the year before her in 1912 and was associated with his father in farming and logging. In 1927, he followed his father and became a Selectman of Bethel, a post he held until his death. He proposed to Edith and on 25 June 1914, they were married at her parent's home in Middle Intervale. Their honeymoon included stops in Boston, Waltham, Bellows Falls, and points between before the return home. Along the way, they visited relatives and saw the sights.

Edith returned to her husband's home and would spend the next fifteen years living in her mother-in-law's house. Agnes Hastings Howe did not have the easiest disposition, but Edith was not one to dwell on her lot. She joined the local grange, the Pythian Sisters, Farm Bureau, and later became a 4-H Club leader. With her marriage also came responsibility. Her daughter Agnes was born 20 March 1915; her son Rodney came into the world two years later on 13 December 1917.

Edith's mother-in-law died in 1930 and her father-in-law the following year. She served six years on the school board in the 1930s and taught Sunday School. Her children graduated from Gould Academy, Agnes in 1934 and Rodney in 1937. Agnes married James K. Haines in April 1937 and Rodney married Geraldine Stanley in 1941. Edith became a grandmother in July 1938 with the arrival of Nancy Haines. Other grandchildren followed: Peter Haines in 1940, George Haines in 1942, Stanley Howe in 1943, John Gregory Howe in 1946, Sue Howe in 1948, John Haines and Allan Howe in 1950, and Cathy Howe in 1955 - a total of nine.

Edith and John celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at a surprise party at the grange hall at East Bethel in

(continued on page 6)

June 1939. Four years later, tragedy struck when John, his cousin William Hastings, and their friend Harry Brooks drowned in Umbagog Lake while on a hunting trip.

As if losing one's husband was not enough, it was soon discovered that all but one of the cows had to be sold since they had Bang's Disease. A heavy snow storm in November 1943 left Edith and her father, who had come to live with her after John's death, without lights and telephone for a week. The storm also collapsed a tool shed (a former school house on Kimball Hill) behind the barn.

The following spring she moved to Middle Intervale to spend the summer with her father in the former Chase house. Her son Rodney assumed charge of the ancestral farm. Edith went to work driving a milk truck for one of her neighbors, Ernest Buck.

During 1946, she decided to work in Florida at the Ormand Beach Hotel as a chambermaid. She left Bethel in December by train. It was here that she met the philanthropist William Bingham II, who asked her to work for him in his home in Bethel.

The following winter Edith decided to work as a housekeeper for a physician in California. Getting there seemed to be a problem at first until her daughter-in-law's brother, Fred Stanley, offered to drive a car west for someone on the west coast. Edith agreed to go along. She and Fred managed to do some sightseeing along the way, stopping at Niagara Falls and visiting sites in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Nebraska, and Colorado among other places. She saw Bryce Canyon, and the Grand Canyon, keeping her relatives in the East supplied with a barrage of cards and letters on all that was happening and all she was seeing. Arriving in Los Angeles, she visited relatives before travelling up the coast to Seattle, Washington, stopping along the way at some of the state parks. She then returned to Glendale, California, where she worked until April 1948.

The summers, with the exception of 1950, were spent as housekeeper and cook for William Bingham II at his Broad Street residence until his death in April 1955. The fall of 1948 she returned to Florida to work in the linen room at Hotel Ormand, returning to Bethel in April 1949.

The winter of 1949 and 1950 she worked for Fred Clark in Bethel. In March 1950 she slipped on some ice and broke her hip. She was in the Rumford Community Hospital until the last of April. She came home to her new apartment over the kitchen on the Howe farm, constructed for her in 1949. She later visited her sister at Stimson Lake in New Hampshire and then at Dorchester, Massachusetts before returning to Bethel.

For the next few winters, she served as housekeeper for Charles Valentine on Mechanic Street in Bethel. The winter of 1954-55 she stayed at Mr. Bingham's house with Betty Burns Thurston.

After Mr. Bingham's death, she was asked by former Maine governor Carl Milliken to work at his home in Larchmont, New York. She remained there until Christmas 1956, coming home at the beginning of that year to attend services for her son-in-law, James Haines, who died suddenly of a heart attack.

In January 1957, Betty Thurston asked Edith to stay with her in the former Hanscom house on Church Street. She remained with Mrs. Thurston until her death in July 1959. That fall she made an extensive trip to the West with her

sister and brother-in-law. They saw several places Edith had visited in 1947.

Edith had one more person to serve as housekeeper before she came home "for good" as she expressed it to one of her grandchildren. He was Ernest Luxton on Route 2 near the Steam Mill section of town.

When she finally did "retire" in the mid-1960s she was far from inactive. She played a prominent role in the grange, in the preservation of the churches at Middle Intervale and East Bethel, and in helping her good friend and Gould classmate Eva Bean found and carry on the fledgling Bethel Historical Society. In addition, she took up painting again with great enthusiasm, taking lessons in Rumford, and laboring over numerous landscapes, some of which captured the activities of her grandchildren. On top of all this, her hands were never idle; she knitted, cooked, mended, altered clothes, sewed, wrote letters, did genealogical and historical research, etc. Nothing seemed to daunt her. Visiting her was also a surprise. One never knew what project she would assume next and complete with seemingly infinite patience and boundless enthusiasm.

In 1952, Edith was honored by the University of Maine as an outstanding homemaker. The commendation read by the university's president Arthur A. Hauck provided some indication of the esteem she was held in by family and friend: "Your life's work speaks for itself. You have excelled as a mother and homemaker and as a good neighbor. You have been a tower of strength in your community, and your home has been a center of activity for young people whom you served with unselfish zeal. The positions you have held testify to your good citizenship. Among them are: 16 years as 4-H Club leader; 17 years as secretary of the local grange; six years as a member of the school board; many years as superintendent of the Sunday School; and six years as clothing leader for the Oxford County Extension Association."

For those who knew her, she was much more than all this. One remembered: "Edith was always good-humored, positive, infinitely kind, devoted to her family, thoroughly patient - the ultimate good neighbor." Like Eleanor Roosevelt, she lit candles rather than curse the darkness.

A stroke in January 1968 disabled her. She lived on as a semi-invalid at her daughter's until her death on 26 March 1975. Her funeral services were held a few days later at her church, the West Parish Congregational Church. She was buried the following spring beside John at East Bethel Cemetery.

She worked closely with Eva Bean during the preparation of *East Bethel Road* for publication and assisted Eva in founding the Bethel Historical Society. A Charter Member, she presented programs for Society meetings and helped raise funds. Her diaries, dating from 1949 to 1968, have been donated by her family to the Bethel Historical Society. They contain many details of working with Eva Bean and provide insights into the early days of the Society.

SRH

SOCIETY NEEDS:

IBM compatible computer with software, metal shelving, a dry sink, early nineteenth century rugs and New England paintings. Anyone who can help should call or write the Society (see page 8).

THE BETHEL SOLDIERS OF '61

(continued from the last issue)

From the pages of the *Oxford County Advertiser*, May 14, 1886, compiled by Judge C. F. Whitman of Norway.

In the latter part of Nov. the Regt. changed its place of encampment again to the vicinity of Fairfax Seminary and during December while members of the Bethel Company were on guard at Gen. Slocum's headquarters one of the boys discovered a turkey in an army clothing box which the General was fattening for Christmas, and he being fond of poultry as most of the men of the Fifth Maine were, conceived the idea of having a turkey dinner before Christmas and on the following Sunday. Having matured his plans on Saturday evening he succeeded in passing the guards of the 5th Maine, Sixteenth and Twenty-seventh New York Regts. and the guard around headquarters and taking the coveted prize he repassed the guards in safety. How he did it is not exactly known. While standing in his tent door Capt. Edwards on Sunday morning noticed one of Gen. Slocum's aids approaching Col. Jackson's headquarters. His first salutation was "Jackson I believe one of the d___d 5th Maine thieves has stolen Slocum's turkey and if so the General would like to have you find it." Turning to Capt. Edwards the colonel said, "Capt. do you suppose anyone of our men has it?" "I shouldn't be surprised" was the answer, "as the boys like poultry." "Well then" rejoined Col. Jackson "look over the camp and see what you can find." It was the usual time for Sunday morning inspection and while the men were drawn up in line Capt. Edwards went to look through the tents of his men. On going into one of them the savory odor of boiling poultry filled the atmosphere, and on lifting the lid lo and behold there was the identical turkey in question. This fact was reported to Col. Jackson and soon a corporal with a file of men from Gen. Slocum's headquarters made his appearance and took the offender into custody. He was placed on an empty barrel for several hours with the following placard on his back: "chicken thief," as punishment for his offense. Capt. Edwards always regretted finding the turkey and would

never have informed his colonel of the fact had he supposed that the soldier would have received anything but a reprimand as a punishment. This soldier was one of the bravest and best in the Regt. and today he is one of the finest landlords in the region of the White Mts. - his hotel being known far and wide for its excellent bill of fare and its splendid accommodations for its patrons. Although the war is over he is a private no longer but bears the title of Gen'l. having been on the staff of a Governor of N.H. This incident should not be taken to the discredit of this worthy man. In war men do things that in time of peace they would never dream of doing. Even chaplains while in the service were often interested in "foraging," - sometimes even setting it afoot.

(to be continued in the next issue)

REFLECTIONS

(continued from the last issue)

by L.E. Davis

We ran two shifts that first summer sawing on Government logs part of the time, but it didn't work out too well. We were bothered to get the lumber properly stacked and we had too many shutdowns for repairs.

We sawed out some over-half the contract during that first year and finished the job the following year. In the second year on this contract, I was faced with a situation that didn't look too good, but again the crew came through to help turn a possible loss into a moderate profit.

The country was recovering from the depression which started in 1933 and wages were increasing each year so that in 1941, the second year of the contract, I had to pay about 50¢ per day more than the previous year, but my contract price remained the same. With a crew of 14 to 16 men, this amounted to about \$8 per day.

So I called the crew together and explained the situation and proposed a solution for it, which they were glad to go along with, and proved a happy plan.

(continued on page 8)

Join the Bethel Historical Society, Western Maine's historical research center.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. free admission to the museum | 5. quarterly publication, <i>The Bethel Courier</i> |
| 2. special discounts in the museum store | 6. reduced course fees |
| 3. preferred rate for meeting room rental | 7. voting rights in the Society |
| 4. special library and archival privileges | 8. special invitations to Society events |

(Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

Signature _____

Please check appropriate category and send your remittance to: P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Sustaining (Individual) - \$10 | ☐ Life over 55 years (Individual) - \$75 |
| ☐ Contributing - \$20 | ☐ Life over 55 years (Couple) - \$125 |
| ☐ Patron - \$30 | ☐ Life under 55 years (Individual) - \$150 |
| ☐ Benefactor - \$40 | ☐ Life under 55 years (Couple) - \$200 |
| ☐ Student (under 18 years) - \$3 | ☐ Individual Preference (any amount over \$10) |
| ☐ Senior (over 55 years) - \$5 | ☐ Corporate - \$50 |

AUSTIN ASSOCIATES, P.A.
Certified Public Accountants
BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND EXPENSES
DECEMBER 31, 1993 AND 1992

	1993	Percent	Percent	1992
	Amount	of Income	of Income	Amount
INCOME				
Elderhostel	\$ 1,835	2.54	5.10	\$ 3,095
General contributions	20,152	27.86	20.60	12,506
Dues	6,625	9.16	10.42	6,323
Admission and sales income	9,502	13.14	20.62	12,516
Rental income	250	.35	1.11	675
Investment income	21,672	29.97	44.04	26,736
Gain (loss) on sale of securities	12,285	16.98	(1.89)	(1,146)
Total income	72,321	100.00	100.00	60,705
EXPENSES				
Bank charges	255	.35	.26	155
Bookkeeping expense	1,200	1.66	1.98	1,200
Building repairs	3,537	4.89	1.76	1,071
Depreciation	10,901	15.07	17.75	10,777
Director's expense	688	.95	.85	200
Dues	260	.36	.92	560
Heat, lights and water	7,171	9.92	9.93	6,026
Insurance	6,018	8.32	9.50	5,770
Janitorial services	91	.13	.14	401
Merchandise for resale	413	.57	21.26	12,907
Miscellaneous	2,043	2.82	2.32	1,401
Office supplies and printing	3,361	4.65	6.19	3,756
Postage	1,549	2.14	3.62	2,200
Professional fees	1,350	1.87	2.14	1,300
Salaries	23,400	32.36	37.52	22,779
Subscriptions	50	.07	.10	60
Supplies	125	.17	.31	189
Taxes	2,508	3.47	4.18	2,536
Telephone	556	.77	.65	394
	65,476	90.54	121.38	73,682
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 6,845	9.46	(21.38)	\$(12,977)

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Charles Raymond, President; Walter Hatch, Vice President; Shireen Vincent, Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees; Roger Conant, Treasurer; Trustees: John Head, Olive Anderson, Jane Hosterman, Barbara H. Honkala, Rebecca P. Kendall



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(Leslie Davis, continued from page 7)

We worked five twelve-hour days per week, which gave them six hours pay, and each day we shut down every three hours and served coffee and lunch to anyone who wanted it and had every man change his job to something different to avoid becoming bored with it, and we paid a bonus for all production over two thousand board feet per hour for every man in the crew. Richard and Dutch were the two sawyers on this job and they also acted as foremen. They had a nice working crew which made a little money for me as well as good wages for themselves.

Marie helped Christie Thurston on these two sawing jobs for the Timber Salvage Administration and handled the payrolls for both the Sturtevant Pond job and the one at Pugwash on Umbagog Lake. We also had some nice camping trips on the lake these years in which we had the big Pugwash boat. Each year on Labor Day weekend we hired a camp and invited some young folks to go with our own and us for a three day camping party. One or two other times during the summer we also were on trips up the lake. It was a lot of work and took a lot of food but everyone enjoyed it.

(to be continued in the next issue)

The Bethel Historical Society
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